



Bally Ground Water Contamination Site Bally Borough; Berks County, PA

Superfund Update

December 2004

This fact sheet is provided to update customers using the Borough of Bally municipal water supply system and other interested members of the public about the ongoing work to permanently address the 1,4-dioxane discovered in drinking water in February 2003.

Progress Toward Siting a New Well

Early in 2004, American Household Inc. (AHI) mapped the aquifers underlying the Borough of Bally and identified several locations that had the potential to be good sites for a new municipal well.

AHI evaluated each of these sites and contacted the property owners to secure access to their land so that further investigations of the properties could be made.

Although multiple sites were promising, the owner of one property was particularly responsive and negotiations to gain access to his property moved ahead quickly.

Work done at this location confirmed that the property had the potential to supply drinking water for the Bally public water supply system. Efforts to negotiate with other property owners were suspended.

AHI submitted a pre-drilling plan to the PADEP and worked closely with the Borough of Bally, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), and the EPA on issues concerning conducting a pump test. A pump test is conducted to determine the adequacy of water flow at a chosen location.

Delay Encountered

As plans were being completed to conduct the pump test, a property owner/developer of the property notified AHI, through his attorney, that he was revoking the access agreement for his property. AHI and the Borough of Bally will continue to negotiate access with the property owner/developer. However, they have also re-contacted the other owners of properties that were identified earlier as potential well sites.

Next Steps

When access is secured to another promising well site, the required geologic work will be conducted to determine that the aquifer at the new location has an ample water supply for the Bally water system. When a suitable well location is confirmed and long-term access has been secured, the information will be included in the Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) that AHI is preparing for EPA. The FFS will address and compare the possibility of installing a new well or treating the current supply well for 1,4-dioxane.

Upon reviewing the FFS, EPA will prepare a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) which will document and explain EPA's preferred

AR500026

method for addressing the 1,4-dioxane contamination. When EPA makes the PRAP available to the public for review, a public comment period will begin and a public meeting will be held. After considering the public comments, EPA will document the selected remedy in a formal decision document. For the Bally site, the document will, most likely, be an

amendment to the previous Record of Decision. The selected remedy will be implemented by AHI under the terms of an existing Consent Decree.

EPA is Committed to Resolving Water Supply Problems

EPA wants to acknowledge the cooperation and patience extended by the local community, community officials, and municipal water system customers during the current drinking water contamination investigation. Unforeseen complexities, including those related to property access, have caused the project to take much longer than was originally projected. However, EPA remains committed to resolving the problems that have arisen and to seeing that a reliable drinking water supply is provided. Every effort is being made to ensure the investigation concludes and a PRAP is developed for public review, as quickly as possible.

For more information about this site, please contact the following EPA representatives:

Carrie Deitzel
Community Involvement Coordinator
215-814-5525
1-800-553-2509 (toll-free)
deitzel.carrie@epa.gov

Mitch Cron
Remedial Project Manager
215-814-3286
cron.mitch@epa.gov

Or visit our website:
www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/PA/

USEPA Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Attn: C. Deitzel (3HS43)

Update: Bally Ground Water Contamination Site

AR500027